

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 ACDA-19 NIC-01 SAJ-01 EB-11 DRC-01 /144 W

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R 291715Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3188

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0562

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - TAGS AND SUBJECT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GE.

SUBJECT: GDR LETTER RE REICHSBAHN AND WATERWAY TRAFFIC

1. THIS IS IN THE CATEGORY OF "WE HATE TO TROUBLE YOU BUT.." (THE "BUT" BEING THAT THE FRENCH MISSION HAS REFERRED THE MATTER TO THE FRENCH EMBASSY).

2. ON MARCH 22 SENATOR FOR ECONOMICS KOENIG RECEIVED FROM GDR STATE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORTATION WEIPRECHT LETTER COMPLAINING THAT SENAT HAD TAKEN UNTO ITSELF RIGHTS PROPERLY EXERCISED BY REICHSBAHN AND WASSERSTRASSEN-HUPTAMT IN REGARD TO SUCH MATTERS AS INCREASES IN REICHSBAHN SIDING FEES, AND SIGN ON WEST BERLIN WATERWAYS. GDR CHALLENGED SENAT'S INSISTENCE ON DEALING WITH SUCH PROBLEMS DIRECTLY WITH REICHSBAHN AND WASSER-STRASSENHAUPTAMT AUTHORITIES, RATHER THAN WITH MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION, ALLEGED THAT SENAT POSITION RAN COUNTER TO QA, AND THREATENED RETALIATORY MEASURES. GDR LETTER WAS REINCORCED BY ORAL DEMARCHE TO SENAT PRESS OFFICE CHIEF STRUVE AT METTING WITH
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GDR STATE SECRETARY FONAFF MITDANK AT SENAT MARCH 25.

2. SENAT, WITH ALLIED CONCURRENCE, ON MARCH 26 SENT
TELEX DRAFTED PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF WEIPRECHT LETTER
FROM OFFICE OF BUILDING AND HOUSING TO WASSERSTRASSEN-
HAUPTAMT, TAKING NOT OF GDR THREAT IN FEBRUARY 28
MEETING TO PUT INTO EFFECT AS OF APRIL 1 NEW GDR
ORDINANCE CALLING FOR ADDITIONAL SIGNS ON WATERWAYS
IN WEST BERLIN. SENAT REPLY REASSERTED TRADITIONAL
WESTERN POSITIONS, BUT INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS
PRACTICAL WATERWAYS MATTERS WITH WASSERSTRASSENHAUPTAMT.
SIGNS IMPLANTED BY GDR, WHICH SPROUTED PREVIOUS WEEK,
BEFORE NEW ORDINANCE WENT INTO EFFECT, WERE IMMEDIATELY
PULLED OUT BY WEST BERLIN AUTHORITIES IN ACCORDANCE
WITH PAST PRECEDENT.

3. SENAT HAS DRAFTED RESPONSE TO WEIPRECHT LETTER, WHICH
WE AND BRITISH FIND ACCEPTABLE WITH SOME CHANGES.
(PACKAGE, INCLUDING WEIPRECHT LETTER, PROPOSED RESPONSE
TO BE SIGNED BY SENATSDIREKTOR DIEDRICH, AND PROPOSED
ALLIED AMENDMENTS, WAS POUCHED TO BRITISH EMBASSY
MARCH 29.) SENAT WISHES TO SEND ITS ANSWER WITHOUT
DELAY, BUT FRENCH MISSION HAS REFERRED MATTER TO BONN,
ARGUING THAT SENAT'S MARCH 26 TELEX IS SUFFICIENT UNTO
THE DAY. WE SUPPORT SENAT ON GROUNDS THAT FAILURE
TO REFUTE GDR POSITIONS WOULD BE MORE DAMAGING THAN ACT
OF COMMUNICATING TO A GDR MINISTRY. MATTER MAY BE
RAISED IN BONN GROUP BY FRENCH, BUT IN ANY EVENT WE
WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S EFFORT TO BRING THEM AROUND.
KLEIN

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Message Attributes

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